A RECOMBINATION FOR VARIETIES OF *ANTICLEA ELEGANS* (MELANTHIACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

The new combination is here made for **Anticlea elegans** var. **glaucus,** formerly within the polyphyletic *Zigadenus* complex as *Zigadenus elegans* var. *glaucus*.

RESUMEN

Se hace una nueva combinación para **Anticlea elegans** var. **glaucus,** previamente incluida en el complejo polifilético *Zigadenus* como *Zigadenus elegans* var. *glaucus*.

Based on molecular and morphological data (Zomlefer et al. 2001), the authors made recombinations at the generic and species-level for taxa of the former *Zigadenus* complex (Zomlefer & Judd 2002). While assisting in the update of these taxa for the *Plants Database* (USDA–NRCS 2009) for the National Resources Conservation Service (Cooperative Agreement 68-3H75-3-122 Mod 14; PI Craig C. Freeman, KANU), the first author realized the necessity of making the following infraspecific transfer to *Anticlea elegans* (formerly *Zigadenus elegans*), presented below.

Anticlea elegans (Pursh) Rydb. var. **glaucus** (Nutt.) Zomlefer & Judd, comb. nov. BASIONYM: *Melanthium glaucum* Nutt., Gen. 1:232. 1818.

Zigadenus elegans Pursh var. *glaucus* (Nutt.) Preece ex Gleason & Cronq. Man. Vasc. Pl. NorthE. U.S. Canad., ed. 2, 864. 1991.

The wide-ranging *Anticlea elegans* (Alaska–Canada south to northern Mexico), occurs in various habitats: generally bogs, beaches, and calcareous wetlands in eastern North America, and prairies, coniferous forests, and alpine meadows in the west (Zomlefer 1997). The differences between the eastern element, *A. elegans* var. *glaucus* (plants glaucous; leaves blunt or subacute, coriaceous; inflorescence usually paniculate; bracts herbaceous, subulate; tepals intensely colored; capsule ovoid-conic), and the western *A. elegans* var. *elegans* (plants green; leaves pointed, more herbaceous; inflorescence usually racemose; bracts scarious margined; tepals pale; capsule lance-conic), as outlined by Fernald (1935), are most evident in the geographical extremes (Preece 1956), and these two taxa require further study in their area of morphological integradation in the eastern Dakotas–western Minnesota region (Gleason & Cronquist 1991; Schwartz 2002). Varietal recognition is appropriate given our current understanding of the pattern of variation.

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